

New Year's Intentions

Alan Claassen

January 1, 2017

On the first day of 2017, a year that will call upon communities like CCC to be a source of compassion and resistance, 51 people gathered in our beautiful Seminar Room to write down our intentions for the year. We sang songs, we shared prayers of gratitude and healing, and we read together the two readings you will find below. During the time usually reserved for the sermon, we wrote down our intentions using the following prompts:

What would you like to invite into your life?

What would you like to let go of from your life?

What theme, such as “spaciousness and joy” or “fierce kindness” would you choose for the coming year?

The invitation is now offered to you, reading this first post of the year in which we are called to be witnesses to the light as we honestly look at the darkness.

A New Beginning

John O'Donohue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.
For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.
It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.
Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.
Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather
stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.